>

Title: Need to formulate a comprehensive plan for development of Kandhamal district of Odisha and also take steps for construction of railway line between Berhampur and Phulbani in the State.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (KANDHAMAL): Kandhamal is one of the most socially and economically backward districts. The area is worst affected due to naxal activities and the tribals are always under threat and fear. The area is full of forest and natural resources but no concrete measures have been taken for developing / utilizing the available resources which could improve living standards of tribals. This area is yet to be connected by Rail line, even after a lapse of 65 years of Independence. Sincere efforts should be made to develop Tourism and Forest related industries, which could help in checking extremists' activities and also improve economic condition of Kandhamal and adjoining districts in Odisha. A railway line should be started on this route on priority.

I request the union Government to come out with specified development plan and special financial package for the development of this backward district. Although Berhampur -Phulbani Rail line has been surveyed 5 years ago but the work is yet to be started.